

In the Specification

Please replace the title of the invention with the following new title:

-- HEAD STACK ASSEMBLY COMPRISING A SHIPPING COMB WHICH
BENDS A SUSPENSION VERTICALLY TO FACILITATE A MERGE TOOL --

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, line 18, as follows:

The present invention may be regarded as a head stack assembly (HSA) for use in a disk drive comprising a disk, wherein a merge tool is used to merge the HSA with the disk during manufacturing of the disk drive. The HSA comprises at least one actuator arm, and a suspension connected to a distal end of the actuator arm. A head is connected to a distal end of the suspension, ~~wherein the suspension for biasing the head toward the disk.~~ A multi-level shipping comb is attached to the actuator arm, wherein the multi-level shipping comb comprising at least one finger ~~for maintaining the suspension in a near optimal vertical position~~ that limits relative vertical motion of the suspension. The finger comprises a first surface and a second surface, wherein the second surface is raised relative to the first surface. During shipping of the HSA, the first surface of the finger contacts the suspension to protect against overstressing the suspension. During manufacture of the disk drive, the shipping comb is actuated so that the second surface contacts the suspension thereby bending the suspension in a vertical direction to facilitate the insertion of the merge tool.

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, line 27, as follows:

The present invention may also be regarded as a method for manufacturing a disk drive comprising a base casting, a disk, and a head stack assembly (HSA). The HSA comprises at least one actuator arm, a suspension

connected to a distal end of the actuator arm, a head connected to a distal end of the suspension, ~~wherein the suspension for biasing the head toward the disk, and a shipping comb attached to the actuator arm for maintaining the suspension in a near optimal vertical position~~that limits relative vertical motion of the suspension. The HSA is inserted into the base casting and the shipping comb actuated to bend the suspension in a vertical direction to facilitate the insertion of a merge tool comprising a finger for engaging the suspension. The merge tool is inserted such that the finger of the merge tool moves into position without scraping against the suspension. The shipping comb is detached from the actuator arm wherein the suspension retracts vertically and engages the finger of the merge tool. The merge tool is then actuated to merge the HSA with the disk.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, line 9, as follows:

FIG. 4A shows an isometric, exploded view of a head stack assembly (HSA) 36 according to an embodiment of the present invention for use in a disk drive comprising a disk, wherein a merge tool is used to merge the HSA 36 with the disk during manufacturing of the disk drive. The HSA 36 comprises at least one actuator arm 38, and a suspension 40 connected to a distal end of the actuator arm 40. A head 42 is connected to a distal end of the suspension 40, ~~wherein the suspension 40 for biasing the head 42 toward the disk~~. A multi-level shipping comb 44 is attached to the actuator arm (FIG. 4B), wherein the multi-level shipping comb 44 comprising at least one finger 46 that limits relative vertical motion of the suspension 40~~for maintaining the suspension 40 in a near optimal vertical position~~. The finger 46 comprises a first surface 48 and a second surface 50, wherein the second surface 50 is raised relative to the first surface 48. During shipping of the HSA, the first

surface 48 of the finger 46 contacts the suspension 40 to protect against overstressing the suspension 40. During manufacture of the disk drive, the shipping comb 44 is actuated so that the second surface 50 contacts the suspension 40 thereby bending the suspension 40 in a vertical direction to facilitate the insertion of the merge tool.